

The Melbourne Sea Slug Census

7-10 June 2019

Thanks to everyone who participated in the June Melbourne Sea Slug Census. While more than 90 people were out searching for slugs on all sides of Port Philip Bay and also in Western Port, challenging conditions and scarcity of slugs resulted in submissions from only 6 individuals/teams. Sea slugs were recorded at Barwon Bluff, Blairgowrie, Boarfish Reef, Point Lonsdale, Sorrento Back Beach, Shoreham and Somers, but other sites including St Leonard's pier were also examined.

BEST NUDI SPOTTER (with the highest count on the day) – congratulations to **Nick Shaw** who submitted photos of the most species of sea slug (21), well ahead of any other photographer for the weekend. **Karen Barwise** was runner-up with 5 species.

WINTER WARMER AWARD (Judged by Bob Burn & ReefWatch) – Karen Barwise – *Ceratosoma amoenum*. While this colourful species has made at least one appearance in each Melbourne Census, we loved the clarity and warmth in this photo. As Bob Burn remarked, “a lovely species”! Well done Karen.

MOST INTERESTING SPECIES (Judged by Bob Burn & ReefWatch) – Nick Shaw - *Aplysiopsis formosa*. This was a great shot of an adult specimen, clearly showing the markings on the front of the cerata as well as the distinct branching pattern on the back of the cerata. Bob also highlighted Nick's photo of *Facelina sp. RB3* as a great shot for visual identification as you can very clearly see all of the important features and body shape. Well done Nick.

Despite the lower numbers (and success rate) of our citizen scientists in the winter edition of the Census, together we still found a total of **29 species** of sea slug. Well done everyone!

To help hone those identification skills, and to alert you all to some of the species you may have overlooked in the past, we have selected an image of each species found and provided the number of teams that found it (out of a total of 6). The initials of the photographer that took the image are shown in brackets (key at the bottom of this page)



Winter Warmer award:
Ceratosoma amoenum
- Karen Barwise

Photographers: BB- Ben Barnett; DA- David Archer; JW- Jill Wheeler and Nicki Filby; KB- Karen Barwise; NS- Nick Shaw; SL- Sue Letinger



Ceratosoma brevicaudatum (DA)
(4 sightings)



Ancula sp. RB2 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Ancula mapae (NS)
(1 sighting)



Aplysiopsis formosa (NS)
(1 sighting)



Ceratosoma amoenum (KB)
(1 sighting)



Diversidoris sulphurea (B)
(1 sighting)



Doriopsilla carneola (BB)
(1 sighting)



Doris cameroni (NS)
(1 sighting)



Doris chrysoderma (KB)
(1 sighting)



Doto ostenta (NS)
(1 sighting)



Elysia furvacuada (NS)
(1 sighting)



Eubranchus sp. (NS)
(1 sighting)



Facelina sp. RB2 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Facelina sp. RB3 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Flabellina sp. RB1 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Flabellina poenicia (NS)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus tinctorius complex (KB)
(1 sighting)



Goniobranchus epicurius (NS)
(1 sighting)



Hermaea sp. 1 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Hermaea evelinamarcae (NS)
(1 sighting)



Hermaea sp. RB10 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Janolus sp. RB2 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Lamellaria australis (JW)
(1 sighting)



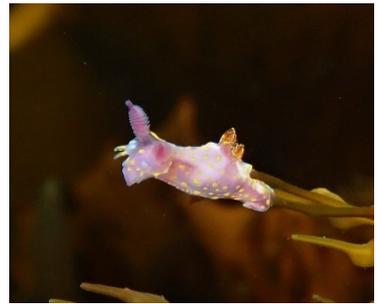
Okenia sp. RB3 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Okenia sp. RB1 (NS)
(1 sighting)



Onchidella nigricans (JW&NF)
(1 sighting)



Polycera janjukia (NS)
(1 sighting)



Thorunna perplexa (KB)
(1 sighting)



Verconia haliclona (NS)
(1 sighting)

Finally, a very big THANKYOU to:

All of you for your enthusiastic participation and to the amazing organizing team led by Nicole Mertens.

Bob Burn for assistance with identification and for choosing the best images and most interesting find.

Happy slug hunting and hope to see you all again for the next Melbourne Sea Slug Census.

Remember, there are also events in other parts of the country – notification of these will be made through the network of Facebook and web sites.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/seaslugcensus/>

Steve Smith and Matt Nimbs

National Marine Science Centre
Southern Cross University